

# THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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## HOMICIDE NEAR FORT MILL.

### C. B. Kimbrell Fires Fatal Shot Into Body of John Skidmore.

Considerable interest was aroused in Fort Mill Monday afternoon when a telephone message was received here stating that Charles B. Kimbrell had shot and killed at his country store, just across the State line in Mecklenburg county, N. C., from Fort Mill township, John Skidmore, who was employed as a road foreman by the Mecklenburg county highway commission in building the road to the York-Mecklenburg bridge over the Catawba river 12 miles northwest of Fort Mill. Charles S. Kimbrell is a son of W. E. Kimbrell of Fort Mill and a brother of S. W. Kimbrell, who lives in the township about five miles north of town. Both are well known and substantial citizens. Only one shot seems to have been fired at Skidmore. This went through his heart, however, killing him instantly.

There seems to have been no eye-witnesses to the homicide, but when neighbors of Kimbrell arrived at the store a few minutes after the shooting he was attempting, so they said, to place the body of Skidmore in the latter's automobile, and remarked that Skidmore was badly hurt and should be taken to a hospital at once. Skidmore was dead at the time. The men are said to have been good friends and thus far no explanation of the shooting has been made, as Kimbrell has refused to make a statement since he was taken into custody charged with the crime. Tuesday he was committed without bond to the Mecklenburg county jail in Charlotte to await trial at the next term of the superior court for that county.

At the preliminary hearing in Charlotte Tuesday morning four men, one of whom was a negro, were put on the stand to tell what they knew of the homicide, but their testimony threw little light on it, as none of them was close at hand when the shot which ended Skidmore's life was fired and none seemed to know much of the circumstances leading up to the shooting. Kimbrell was thought to have been drinking at the time, but the officers who arrested him said he talked coherently.

Skidmore's home was at Mount Holly, N. C., where his widow and 11 children live. Kimbrell also has a family and besides running the store at which the homicide occurred is also a farmer. The store is located on his farm a short distance from his home.

### Ran Down Near Gastonia.

R. S. Torrence, well known citizen of the upper section of Fort Mill township, was run down Saturday afternoon on the public highway near Gastonia, N. C., by a party of negroes driving a Ford car and was seriously hurt about the face. Mr. Torrence's condition was such that he was immediately taken to a hospital in Gastonia, where he still is a patient. He was unconscious for several hours, but yesterday his condition was reported considerably improved. Mr. Torrence is the father of Mrs. E. S. Parks of Fort Mill and is a Confederate veteran.

The negroes in the car that struck Mr. Torrence did not stop to see how seriously he was hurt and up to yesterday no arrests had been made in connection with the case, but Gaston county officers have the number of the car and expect to round up the negroes within the next day or two.

**World's Biggest Cotton Plantation.**  
The biggest cotton plantation in the world is at Scott, Miss. It comprises 65,000 acres and represents an investment of 20 million dollars, with 300 whites and 10,000 negroes making up its population. The mules and saddle horses alone on the place are valued at more than a quarter of a million dollars. Cotton is the principal crop, but other crops also are raised. This year there are 600 acres in alfalfa, 900 acres in oats, 2,000 acres in pasture, 6,000 acres in corn. A sawmill on the place has a capacity of 13 million feet a year. Educational facilities are provided for the children, both white and negro.

**Death of Young Boy.**  
Curtis Bryant, 11 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bryant of the lower mill village, Fort Mill, died Saturday evening, October 7, following a illness of about two weeks. The funeral was conducted at the home of the parents, Sunday afternoon, October 8, by the Rev. J. W. H. Dykes, pastor of the Fort Mill Baptist church and interment followed in the city cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Bryant have the sympathy of many friends in the loss of their son.

The football team of the Fort Mill school will go to Chester Friday afternoon for its annual game with the local team of that city. The team is expected to do very well.

## THE RIO GRANDE.

"The Rio Grande river, between Texas and Mexico, is normally so shallow and sluggish that immigration agents and customs officers are kept busy 'shooting' back Mexicans who enter the United States by the simple and informal procedure of wading in," says a bulletin of the National Geographic society.

"It is hard," continues the bulletin, "for the Mexico-bound traveler to realize under normal conditions that the ribbon of water meandering through a broad bed of sand is the stream that in Spanish means 'The Great River,' but once a year at least and sometimes oftener, the Rio Grande fully lives up to its name."

"The loam banks of the Rio Grande and its broad, fertile valley, covered with a heavy growth of the thorny mesquite—half shrub and half tree—was long considered a wilderness and given over to deer, wild hogs, armadillos and jack rabbits. Then came ranchmen to graze great herds of beef cattle among the feathery sea of green. Large areas somewhat removed from the river are still given over to cattle raising."

"But near the stream, pumping stations and irrigation canals have come into existence in recent years, and each spring and summer thousands of carloads of watermelons, cantaloupes, onions, cabbage and other vegetables steam north from the region to help feed the more northern portions of the country. For this region near the warm Gulf of Mexico and barely outside the tropics, competes with Florida and the Imperial valley in California in producing early crops."

"Still more recently another development has taken place which promises to make the Rio Grande a second San Joaquin valley. Between a million and a half and two million citrus fruit trees have been planted and in the winter of 1921-22 the first carloads of oranges and grapefruit were shipped out."

"Historically the Rio Grande has held a prominent place. It was one of the chief landmarks in the famous expedition of the Spanish explorers who pushed into Texas and on to New Mexico and California four centuries ago. Later it became a part of Southern Concord, for if the shot fired in Massachusetts in April, 1775, was 'heard round the world,' a shot fired on the banks of the lower Rio Grande on another April morning 71 years later by Gen. Zachary Taylor's soldiers might be said to have been heard over an area of half a million square miles."

That area was added to the United States as a result of the shot, for it brought on the Mexican war which resulted in the annexation of what is now California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and parts of New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. In addition, this skirmish near the mouth of the Rio Grande led to the confirmation of the annexation of Texas, which had brought an additional quarter of a million square miles under the American flag."

### The Value of Advertising.

There is nothing in the world like advertising, says the Augusta Chronicle. Of course, a newspaper believes in advertising, some cynics will sneer, but we are prepared to prove it. Take the merchants of any city, for example, and you will find that those who are making the greatest success are those who combine quality of merchandise with intelligent, liberal advertising. There are lots of ways to advertise. The best way is by the medium of newspapers, then letters, billboards, show windows and an artistic display of goods inside the store. It is generally conceded that the merchant who doesn't advertise will not last long in business. Dry rot sets in and the end is only a question of time. A live merchant advertises in the newspapers first of all, then he uses some or all the other methods, and one method which is highly important is the treatment of customers, after the newspaper or other advertisement brings them into the store. A kind word spoken regarding the courtesy shown by the employees of a store is a great asset in bringing others into that store.

### Little Forest Timber Left.

While there is very little original forest timber left in this section, not quite all of it has disappeared. On the plantation of J. C. Saville in the upper section of Fort Mill township, near the North Carolina line, there is still standing several thousand feet of first class pine timber in a ten acre tract. A considerable number of the finest trees have died during the last year or two, but the lumber in most of these has been salvaged. During the World War Mr. Saville could have received a fancy price for the timber, but refused to consider selling it.

## NEWS OF YORK COUNTY.

### Items of General Interest Found in the Yorkville Enquirer.

Sneak thieves in the vicinity of Clover are no spectators or persons, but would just as soon steal from an outcrop of the law as anybody else. Last Saturday Constable H. L. Johnson left his raincoat in his automobile while he went into a store. When he came back it was gone.

The governor has declined to order the closing of the schools of the State on October 24 for the benefit of the State fair. He says there is no such power vested in him. It is to be presumed, however, that that Columbia bunch will have this little oversight corrected as soon as possible.

Dr. R. L. Wylie, for some time past chairman of the board of trustees of the Clover schools, has resigned his trusteeship. His successor has not yet been appointed. Dr. Wylie is a member of the board of public works and it was a case of being unable to hold two public offices, which is contrary to the law of the State.

With a large number of ministers and elders in attendance and a goodly congregation of Sharon townpeople attending the opening meeting, the fall session of Bethel presbytery of the Presbyterian church was opened in Woodlawn church at Sharon Tuesday morning. The presbyterial court was opened with a sermon by Rev. Flournoy Shepperson, D. D., pastor of Purity Presbyterian church of Chester. R. B. Caldwell of Chester is the retiring moderator.

Hugh G. Brown, county supervisor, said Monday that while he was unable to say just when construction work on the two bridges to be built over Bullock's creek, one on the West road and the other on the Sharon-Hickory Grove road, would begin, that the material for the bridges is now being gathered. Timber to be used in each bridge is being treated with a creosote preparation by a Charlotte lumber concern which has the contract to furnish the timber, according to Mr. Brown.

Mrs. W. P. Youngblood of Sharon has the distinction of being the first woman in York county and possibly the first in the State to carry the mail on a rural delivery route. Despite the fact that last Friday was the 13th as well as Friday, Mrs. Youngblood started out on her temporary job as a carrier of Uncle Sam's mail and she got along just fine, giving the patrons of Sharon No. 2 the same courteous service that her husband has been giving them for 20 years or more.

The congregation of the First Baptist church of Clover has decided to build a new church to cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000. At a recent meeting of the congregation the plan for the building of the new church was explained and the congregation went on record as favoring such a project. Members of the church, according to the pastor, Rev. S. A. Hemrick, have been very liberal in their subscriptions to the church building fund and the understanding is that practically the entire sum needed is in sight. The church will be of brick veneer construction and will be equipped with a Sunday school department to have not less than 15 class rooms.

York county's educational system is an institution that is costing nearly a half million dollars to finance, according to figures gleaned from the annual report of County Superintendent of Education John E. Carroll for the school year ending July 1, 1922, which report has just been forwarded to John E. Swearingen, State superintendent of education. The report shows that salaries of teachers and other school expenses in the schools of the county for the period named totaled \$427,183.38. The value of white school buildings and grounds in York county is given at \$546,075 and the equipment is valued at \$48,575. Figures relative to school enrollment as given in the report are interesting. The total number of pupils who were in school the past year was 15,511. There were just 31 more colored pupils than there were white, the colored pupils totaling 7,766 and the whites 7,745. This is a distinct gain in the number of white pupils in the schools and shows that the negroes are decreasing in school attendance, since it has been only three years ago that the number of negroes enrolled was 1,000 more than the whites. Just what effect the compulsory school attendance laws have had in bringing about this increase in enrollment of white pupils cannot be ascertained, but the county superintendent believes that the work of the compulsory attendance officers is largely responsible for the increase in whites. Five new school buildings were erected during the year, according to the report.

Every cloud has a silver lining—except the war clouds.

## ANCIENT CITY OF SMYRNA.

### Scene of Turks' Latest Wholesale Slaughter of Christians.

The city of Smyrna, in which the latest wholesale massacre of Christians by the Turks has taken place, has a history running back into the centuries before the coming of Christ. For more than 26 centuries the city, capital of what is now the province of Aidin in Asia Minor, has at intervals been the cockpit of the world, as Belgium has been that of Europe since Julius Caesar's legions first encamped not far from what is now, known as Liege.

Smyrna is located on the west coast of Asia Minor, at the head of the gulf of the same name. It has always been the most important shipping point in Asia Minor for the trade of the Mediterranean. The Greeks have long coveted it and they seized it some months ago. Now the Turks have marched back, wreaking a bloody vengeance as they came. Smyrna was a flourishing Greek city as far back as 750 years before Christ. Prior to that time the bay was used by the Phoenicians and was a commercial center.

It had a long and picturesque but troubled history in the centuries that came after the days of Alexander the Great. One of the latter's generals, after Alexander's death, made it the capital of the empire he tried to create. The city flourished under different rulers and was considered one of the chief ports of the world during the greater part of the world rule of the Roman empire. In 173 A. D. it was destroyed by an earthquake, but was soon rebuilt. The Turks burned it 700 years or so ago, but it was again rebuilt and soon recovered its trade.

Just before the World War Smyrna was a city of about 400,000 population. Turks, Jews and Armenians made up three-fourths of its population in almost equal numbers. In those days there was complete religious tolerance and the different sects got along together very well. From the Gulf the city was unusually attractive, but when the tourist got off his ship and explored the streets he was struck by the filthiness of the streets and the lack of sanitation. On the hills over the city there were in those days many beautiful palaces, homes of the wealthy classes. Of these the handsomest were owned by Jews, and some of these Jewish merchants of Smyrna, in the good old days before 1914, carried on commerce on a great scale and lived in homes that would have excited the admiration of King Solomon. But the Turks have destroyed all these beautiful homes and their former owners, such as escaped the recent massacres, have been scattered to the four winds of the earth.

### To Paint County River Bridge.

Tuesday in Rock Hill Hugh G. Brown, county supervisor, awarded to C. L. Williams of Rock Hill the contract for repainting the county bridge over Catawba river between Fort Mill and Rock Hill at a cost of \$1,300. The bridge is to be thoroughly cleaned and two coats of paint are to be given it, the contract calling for the completion of the work not later than December 1. There were several bidders for the job, but the bid of Williams was considered the most advantageous for the county. He is to furnish the paint and the labor necessary to do the work according to specifications. At the last session of the General Assembly \$2,000 was set aside for use of the supervisor's office in having county bridges repainted and already a number of the smaller bridges have been painted in on the fund.

### Sunday School Program.

The following program will be observed by the Sunday school of the Fort Mill Baptist church Sunday morning, October 22:

1. Instrumental music.
2. Special song by children.
3. Song by school.
4. Story, "Jesus is Holding Me," by Miss Lela Parks.
5. Violin and Piano duet, Canyon Young and Miss Esther Meacham.
6. "Winning the Game," by John McLaughlin.
7. Special song by Misses Beatrice Parks, Marjorie Parks and Beulah Epps.
8. Prayer.
9. Class period.
10. Closing song by school.

Prayer King, J. H. Black.

The people of Fort Mill and the surrounding section for several days have been enjoying a heavy rain. The recent deluge has been a heavy blessing on the crops and the people are very grateful. The rain has also helped to cool the weather, which has been very hot recently.

## Big Sum for S. S. McNinch.

According to word received in Fort Mill a few days ago, S. S. McNinch, former owner of the Charlotte brick works, located at Grattan, two miles south of Fort Mill, has recently been paid \$20,400 by the American Trust company of Charlotte in settlement of the verdict which several months ago was rendered by a Mecklenburg county jury in his favor following the hearing of the suit he brought against the trust company, alleging that it had disposed of the brick plant and certain farm lands adjacent thereto in violation of an agreement he had with the company. The case was hard fought in the superior court and several weeks were consumed in hearing it. An appeal was taken to the North Carolina supreme court, but the verdict of the lower court was upheld.

Numerous Fort Mill people were called to Charlotte to testify in the case, some for and others against McNinch. The trust company had a mortgage on the brick works and farm land which it foreclosed several years ago, McNinch alleging that the foreclosure violated the terms of an understanding he had with the company as to the sale of the property and that as a result of its action he suffered heavy damages. Following the foreclosure proceedings the brick plant was dismantled and the machinery sold. A considerable part of the land was bought by Dr. J. L. Spratt of Fort Mill, who resold it to Hamilton Carhart. According to stories which have come to Fort Mill from time to time, McNinch now intends to enter suit for the recovery of the land.

### Bug Kills Boll Weevil.

A bug that kills the boll weevil has been found. He has been found in Marlboro county and caught in the act, says the Bennettsville Advocate. He was found by Mrs. Floyd Prevatt, near Lester, last Saturday on a quilt in her yard, with his bill thrust into a boll weevil. He was holding the impaled weevil up in the air, sucking the life out of it.

Mrs. Prevatt put the bug in a bottle with several boll weevils and the bug immediately attacked them by sticking his bill into their backs and sucking them to death. Several weevils were killed in a few hours. Monday, Mr. Prevatt carried the bug to Theodore L. Burton, one of the county's most prominent and successful farmers. Mr. Breeden was skeptical about the bug killing weevils, but watched for a few minutes and saw the bug thrust his bill into a weevil. He kept it there about ten minutes, and then held the weevil up and shook him off, punctured and deflated, dried up and dead. He put about a dozen weevils in the bottle Monday evening. Tuesday morning they all lay "withered and strewn" on the battlefield at the bottom of the bottle.

### Rock Hill Overpowers Locals.

The Rock Hill high school football team came over to Fort Mill last Friday afternoon and smothered the local high school boys so effectively that when the game was over Rock Hill had scored 52 points and had not been generous enough to allow the boys who a few days before had forced Charlotte University school and York high to take a dose from the same spoon to score ever so little.

The story of the game from the Fort Mill point of view can be told in few words. The locals were up against a superior team—superior in weight, superior in coaching and superior in general knowledge of the game. But at that there wasn't anything humiliating in the defeat for the locals. They had expected as much. Rock Hill had a greater number of students from which to select its football material and funds with which to employ a competent coach. The locals took their setback in good humor, hoping to do better next time, and more than one of them expressed the wish that Rock Hill may be able this year to take the measure of the Chester team, a thing the locals themselves fear they will not be able to do.

### Gets Around High Freight Rates.

There is at least one way of getting around the high freight rates established by the interstate commerce commission for short interstate shipments, as was demonstrated in Fort Mill a few days ago. A contractor who had been at work in the lower section of South Carolina decided to ship his outfit, consisting principally of livestock, to a point in North Carolina. Instead of consigning the shipment to the place of destination, he sent the outfit to Fort Mill and here unloaded his mules and oxen and drove them through the country to Pineville, N. C., a distance of seven miles, where they were reshipped to the place he wished them to go. It is said that the plan saved the contractor several dollars.

## FLORIDA DRIFTING APART.

### State May Eventually Be Divided If Agitation Continues.

There are two distinct Floridas, North Florida and South Florida, quite evenly divided as to territory, and population, but widely divided by interest, occupation, soil conditions, industry and ideas of progressiveness, says a writer in the Dearborn Independent.

A line drawn across the State at about latitude 29 degrees north, at the narrowest part of the peninsula, approximately divides the two sections. To the north of this line lies old Florida, with all its ancient traditions. To the south is that portion of the State, the new Florida, bursting with energy, enterprising and progressive and with a great vision of the splendid empire it is rapidly creating.

Agitation for State division of Florida has been more or less sporadic for a number of years, but it has only been within the last two or three years that there has been any serious consideration of the subject. The urge has occasionally come from the State of Alabama itself, for that State would very much like to have a section that would give it a few more towns and cities and gulf coast. The Legislature of Alabama is said at one time to have made an appropriation to purchase the coveted territory from Florida, but nothing has ever come of the movement.

South Florida was practically an unknown land previous to the beginnings of the development undertaken by Henry B. Plant and Henry M. Flagler, the one creating a railroad system that reached down into the Southern section of the State to Tampa and farther on, and the other building down the east coast of the State to Miami and finally to Key West. When it is said that Florida was an unknown section of the country before the great empire builders began their work, it is not meant that State history had not been made. But Florida began to be widely known when railroads pushed their enterprising way into South Florida. Then it was that the tide of tourists set in, first in dribs and then in the mighty flood that now marks every Florida winter. Northern capital was chary of entering Florida until the railroads showed the way, and then Northern men with money, attracted by the possibilities of profit in citrus fruit culture, began to flock into that section.

Progress was slow; the fateful years of 1894-95 seemed to end it forever in disastrous freezes that wiped out the entire citrus fruit industry and ruined thousands who had put their all of years, money and life, into their ventures.

But the "great freeze," as it is still referred to by old time residents, was a blessing, though heavily disguised. Men sought other sections where frost and cold could not come and they found it or thought they found it in the extreme southern end of the State. With the gradual recovery from the freeze there came a most wonderful development of the entire southern section of the State and with it a new birth to the section that had been so badly used by the frost.

After the year 1900 the people of the North discovered that there were great possibilities in the soil of South Florida and from that time to this there has been a steadily increasing stream of immigrants who have settled on the rich lands of the southern portion of the State. They have built up magnificent towns and cities, they have covered the section with hard-surfaced roads, they have acquired groves and gardens and ranches; in brief, they have created an empire.

If general consent should ultimately be given to the division of the State at about the line suggested, North Florida would retain 35 counties with a population of about 550,000, while South Florida would have a State composed, as at present, of 26 counties with a population approximating 400,000. Both States would have about the same area after such a division as is suggested.

The present assessed valuation of North Florida is somewhat in excess of the valuation of the other part of the State, but the difference is rapidly being made up by the growth of South Florida. In North Florida there are nine daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 75,000. In South Florida there are 20 daily newspapers, with a circulation of nearly 100,000. In North Florida there are 80 publications of all kinds, while in South Florida there are 99.

At a meeting Monday evening of the town council of Fort Mill J. L. Kizer was elected a police officer to work in conjunction with Oscar Hammond. The monthly salary of the two officers was fixed at \$75 each.